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Chicago Film Festival Marks 52nd Year

Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson

By Lisa Fielding

The Chicago International Film Festival is Americaâ??s longest running competitive film festival, and organizers are promising something for everyone this year.

Michael Kutza, Founder and Director, Chicago International Film Festival. (Photo credit: Emily

â??Young people films like â??Trollsâ?? in 3D for kids, up to musicals like â??La La Land,â?? which is a big, Oscar potential, and we have a whole section on musicals. But really the festival is based on discovering new directors and honoring some of the old ones whoâ??ve been here over the years,â?• says Michael Kutza, Founder and Artistic Director.

Kutza founded the CIFF in 1964 and has been bringing independent and foreign films to the masses for years.

â??We do a mix of independent and Hollywood. We close with a big Hollywood film to tempt you to come see some of our foreign films. Itâ??s a tough town, but we want to get you to see the world, and so we tempt you with Hollywood,â?• he says.

Kutza says not only does the festival educate fans about films they would never have seen otherwise, but the 15-day festival offers hundreds of feature films. Itâ??s an opportunity to see many features before they are released.

> **â??You want the best films, you want the winner of the Cannes Film Festival, Venice, Sundance, then you start with that. We go all over the world to find whatâ??s best and bring it to film fans here in Chicago,â?• he says.**

There will also be documentaries, films by first-time filmmakers, short-subject films, educational films, big name directors and actors along with films submitted for the Academy Awards.

Thereâ??s even a new section this year, an International Musical section.

Programming Director Mimi Plauche, Chicago International Film Festival (Photo from http://www.tiff.ro.com)

â??We found everything from an Israeli-Palestinian hip-hop musical. Three different Polish musicals were made this year, and we have two of them. Itâ??s really kind of fun looking for and finding a whole new genre of films from around the world,â?• says Mimi Plauche, programming director.

This yearâ??s main competition jury president is actress Geraldine Chaplin, daughter of Charlie Chaplin. She will join Kutza for a conversation about her career and the 23 days her famous father spent at Chicagoâ??s Essanay Studios in 1915.

Actress Geraldine Chaplin, daughter of Charlie Chaplin, will serve as the main competition jury presi International Film Festival)

â??I was just in Cuba and spent ten days on a jury with Geraldine. I asked her if sheâ??d ever been to Chicago and she said no. I told her to come and take part and we can honor you and you talk about your life and your dadâ??s films,â?• Kutza says.

Directors Peter Bogdonovich, left, and Steve McQueen will be honored at the 52nd Chicago International Film Festival. (Photo credit: http://www.chicago.cbslocal.com)

This year, directors Peter Bogdonovich and Steve McQueen will be honored. The film fest opens on Thursday and runs through Oct. 27. For more information, click here.

(Source: http://www.chicago.cbslocal.com)

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